

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A ballast device for a discharge lamp comprising: ;  
having  
a DC voltage supply stage; ;  
semiconductor switches ~~which are being~~ switched at a radiofrequency clock frequency ~~for the purpose of changing the~~ so as to change the current direction through the discharge lamp; ;  
a starting transformer; ~~to which the DC voltage of the DC voltage supply stage can be supplied via~~  
a series capacitor through which a DC voltage of said DC voltage supply stage is supplied to the starting transformer, and  
a ballast inductance ~~which is connected to an electrode of the discharge lamp which is ; not connected to the starting transformer ; of the discharge lamp,~~  
~~characterized in that, between a~~ wherein  
there is a first connecting point between the series capacitor and the starting transformer, ~~on the one hand,~~ and a  
there is a second connecting point between the discharge lamp and the ballast inductance, ~~on the other hand~~  
a capacitor is connected in series with a switch between the first and second connecting points, ~~and in that the said~~ capacitor forms, ~~with the ballast inductance,~~ a series resonant circuit with the ballast inductance, and said series resonant circuit ~~which~~ is tuned to a higher harmonic of the clock frequency.
2. (Currently amended) A ballast device as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the series resonant circuit is tuned to the third to sixth harmonic of the clock frequency.
3. (Currently amended) The ballast device as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a resistor is connected in parallel with the capacitor.